political aims of the task force. It stated that the troops were marching to Petrograd on the order of the All-Russian Executive Committee of Workers and Soldiers. Their aim was to insure the convocation of a democratically elected Constituent Assembly, from which Russia expected the realization of its old dreams: peace, land for the tillers of the soil, a better life for the workers, freedom and human rights for all. The declaration was duplicated and sent to all armies, given to the press, and wired along rail lines. The immediate result was that the Soviets of Gatchina and Tsarskoe Selo proclaimed neutrality and declared that the garrisons would not interfere with the movement of the task force.

Meanwhile, new faces appeared in Gatchina Palace—political adventurers of all kinds, offering their advice to Kerensky and Krasnov. Conspicuous among them was Savinkov, who proposed to Krasnov that he arrest Kerensky and appoint him, Savinkov, to head the government to be installed in Petrograd.

"This is politics," replied the general. "Discuss your plans with Mr. Woytinsky."

Savinkov came to me, but in the meantime he had changed his plan. Kerensky could stay on as a private person, but he, Savinkov, should be the leader of the crusade and the spokesman of the task force. I answered, "I am not familiar with your qualifications as a leader. Moreover, the task force needs no spokesman. It can speak for itself through its committee." And I gave him a copy of our declaration. All committees were anathema to Savinkov. He collapsed like a punctured balloon.

On November 12, Krasnov's advance units were stationed in Tsarskoe while the headquarters remained in Gatchina. We waited for reinforcements. Three Cossack hundreds arrived with two pieces of artillery, but the officers complained that their men had been affected by leftist propaganda and were not wholly reliable.

In the evening, alarming news came from Petrograd. Students of the military schools had made a desperate attempt to overthrow the new government. Although partly disarmed by the soldiers a few days before, the schools still had several thousand rifles and a hundred or more machine guns. They also counted on the Cossack regiments. Their plan was to seize the central depot of armored tanks, occupy the central telegraph and telephone stations, and strike against the main stronghold of the People's Commissars, the Smolny. The assault on the telegraph and telephone stations turned out well. Then soldiers rushed from their barracks, surrounded the stations and the military schools, and presented the students with an ultimatum to surrender. Only one school tried to resist. The soldiers opened point-blank artillery fire against it. The building was taken by storm,